

TURF TWISTERS

GREENS AND FERTILIZERS

Question: "- - - you might be able to help me - - -. I am securing information that we can use to advise superintendents in Arkansas on how they should fertilize their greens." (ARKANSAS)

Answer: Two mimeographed sheets that we furnish to our Green Section Visiting Service subscribers are enclosed. These thoughts about fertilization are based partly upon research and partly on observations and experiences of successful golf course superintendents.

FERTILIZATION OF BENTGRASS GREENS

Fertilizer for greens should provide nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P_2O_5), and potash (K_2O), in the ratio of 3-1-2. Use 1/2 pound maximum of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per month on bentgrass in hot weather, and one pound per month during cool months. This will provide about 9 pounds of N per 1,000 square feet per year.

If the 3-1-2 ratio material is used, you will apply three pounds of P_2O_5 and six pounds of K_2O . These nutrients do not leach readily and may be applied in spring and fall when weather is cool.

FERTILIZATION OF BERMUDAGRASS GREENS

Fertilizer for greens should provide nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P_2O_5) and potash (K_2O) in the ration of 3-1-2. Use two pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per month on bermudagrass in hot weather and one pound per month during cool months when the greens have been overseeded with cool season grasses. This practice will provide about 18 pounds of N per 1,000 square feet per year.

If the 3-1-2 ratio of materials is used, you will apply six pounds of P_2O_5 and 12 pounds of K_2O . These nutrients do not leach readily and may be applied in spring and fall when weather is cool.

Some superintendents add a little potash during the summer months. Amounts up to 1/2 pound of Muriate of Potash (60% K_2O) per 1,000 square feet may be applied during the summer if it is watered in promptly.

MOWING BUFFALOGRASS

Question: At what height should buffalograss for fairway use be mowed? Should clippings be removed? (KANSAS)

Answer: Buffalograss should be mowed at one inch or perhaps a little shorter. It should be mowed frequently enough that no more than 1/2 inch of the leaves is cut off at any mowing. If mowing is accomplished as often as this, the clippings will disappear into the turf and there will be no need for removing them.